

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2520

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4357

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT, AR

SUBJ: OCCUPATIONS SUBSIDING AS COUNTER PRESSURES GROW

REF: BA 4291; BA 4292

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH A FEW NEW OCCUPATIONS ARE STILL TAKING PLACE, MANY MORE DISOCCUPATIONS ARE OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF THE JUSTICIALISTA MOVEMENT DECLARATION AND GROWING PRESSURES FROM OTHER QUARTERS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLAYED ALMOST NO ROLE IN ABATING THE OCCUPATIONS, LEAVING THE IMPRESSION OF WEAKNESS IN DEALING WITH SUCH MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. MANY PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACTORIES ARE BEING DISOCCUPIED AS OCCUPIERS HEED THE CALL OF ABAL MEDINA TO CEASE SUCH ACTIVITIES (SEE BA 4291) . OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UNIONS AND EVEN THE PERONIST YOUTH HAVE CALLED FOR TOU OCCUPATIONS TO END, NOW THAT THEIR PURPOSES HAVE BEEN SERVED. ALTHOUGH NEW INSTALLATIONS CONTINUE TO BE OCCUPIED, THE RATE OF DEPARTURES EXCEEDS THAT OF THE NEW SIT- INS BY A GROWING MARGIN.

3. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO PLAY ONLY A VERY MINOR ROLE IN COMBATING THE OCCUPATIONS. ON JUNE 15 AND 17 THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR ISSUED WEAKLY- WORDED COMMUNIQUE, THE FIRST
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OF WHICH MERELY CALLED ON THE OCCUPIERS TO HEED THE WORDS OF THE JUSTICIALISTA MOVEMENT, IN EFFECT PLACING THE GOVERNMENT AT THE SERVICE OF THE MOVEMENT TO THIS END, INSTEAD OF ASSUMING ITS PROPER RESPONSIBILITIES. THE SECOND COMMUNIQUE WAS LARGELY A DEMOGOGIC ATTACK ON THE RECENT DE FACTO GOVERNMENTS, BUT INCLUDED A CALL FOR THE END TO OCCUPATIONS WHICH COULD ONLY SERVE THE "PURPOSES OF PROVOCATION" AT A TIME WHEN THE NATION SHOULD BE JUBILANT AT THE PROSPECT OF PERON'S RETURN.

4. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN MORE FORCEFUL, HOWEVER. MINISTER OF FINANCE GELBARD HAS REPORTEDLY DECLARED PRIVATELY HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN UNLESS HIS APPOINTEE, HORACIO ZUBIRI, IS RETURNED TO THE POST OF UNDER-SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS FROM WHICH HE WAS FORCED TO RESIGN ON JUNE 14. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT VICE PRESIDENT SOLANO LIMA HAS ALREADY TOLD ZUBIRI THAT HE WILL BE PLACED BACK IN HIS JOB JUNE 18. THOSE WHO OUSTED HIM HAVE RETREATED SOMEWHAT AND SAID THEY WOULD LEAVE THE DECISION TO CAMPORA AND PERON.

5. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S APPARENT DESIRE TO DUCK THE OCCUPATION ISSUE OUT OF FEAR OF ALIENATING ANY SECTOR OF THE POPULACE HAS THREATENED INSTEAD TO HAVE BOOMERANG EFFECT OF GENERATING WIDESPREAD DISRESPECT FOR ITS AUTHORITY. MININT RIGHI APPEARS TO HAVE HANDLED HIMSELF PARTICULARLY POORLY. PERONIST SOURCES GENERALLY AGREE THAT PERON HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH APPOINTING RIGHI; HE IS CAMPORA'S CHOICE. GIVEN HIS SPINELESS PERFORMANCE SO FAR, THE SAME SOURCES INSIST, RIGHI IS NOW AS GOOD AS OUT. THIS MAY BE AN EXAGGERATION, BUT CHANCES ARE THAT RIGHI INDEED MAY NOT LAST LONG AS INTERIOR MINISTER.

6. ONLY MIN OF EDUCATION TAIANA AMONG OFFICIALDOM MADE A REALLY STRONG DECLARATION AGAINST THE OCCUPATION (GELBARD ISSUED NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS). THE POPULACE IS ONLY TOO AWARE THAT THE OCCUPATION PROBLEM WAS LEFT TO THE PERONIST MOVEMENT TO RESOLVE EVEN THOUGH NON-PERONIST AGITATORS ALSO WERE INVOLVED. THE THEORY HAS BEEN BROADENED BY SOME THAT THE OCCUPATIONS WERE INSTIGATED BY PERON TO SHOW THAT IT WAS HE AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT THAT REALLY CONTROLLED

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THE SITUATION, BUT IT IS MORE PROBABLE THAT THE CAMPORA GOVERNMENT SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE WILL OR THE LEADERSHIP TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEM. PERHAPS AS A RESULT, THE TERRORISTS HAVE BEGUN THEIR DEPREDATIONS AGAIN (SEE SEPTEL). THE PRESS GENERALLY (EVEN PERONIST-LINING MAYORIA WAS CRITICAL OF THE OCCUPATIONS) AND SOME UCR AND MANRIQUISTA CONGRESSMAN HAVE SHARPLY CALLED ATTENTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S

DISMAL PERFORMANCE ON THIS ISSUE.
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